

throughout the West. His dedication to running provided the opportunity to achieve a personal highlight, serving as a torch bearer for the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games.

It is with great pride and admiration that I, Senator RISC, and Congressman SIMPSON thank Tom Courtney for his unselfish service and dedication to the city of Twin Falls and the great State of Idaho. We wish him a happy and productive retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL STEVEN R. DOOHEN

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam President, today I pay tribute to MG Steven R. Doochen, who will be retiring at the end of the month as adjutant general for the South Dakota National Guard.

General Doochen joined the South Dakota Air National Guard in January 1971, later receiving his commission from the Academy of Military Sciences at McGhee Tyson, TN. He graduated from the University of Sioux Falls in 1987 with a bachelor of arts in organizational behavior management. Over the course of his distinguished 40-year career, General Doochen has become highly decorated and amassed more than 4,500 hours of tactical flight time.

General Doochen was appointed adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard on September 16, 2007, by then-Governor M. Michael Rounds. In this role, General Doochen oversees 4,400 Air and Army National Guard citizen soldiers and airmen, in addition to 950 Federal and State employees. General Doochen has also served in the Governor's cabinet as the Secretary of Military and Veteran Affairs.

South Dakota's Army National Guard ranks No. 2 in the Nation in recruiting and retention of soldiers, largely due to General Doochen's drive and eagerness to serve our State. The South Dakota Army and Air National Guard have always produced and provided highly skilled, professional, and dedicated citizen soldiers and airmen. Their skills and expertise have complemented our Nation's military efforts, both overseas and on the homefront, and assisted South Dakota's efforts when fighting natural disasters. Another result of producing such great soldiers and airmen has been the ongoing development of great leaders for both the Army and Air National Guard, and that has been reflected in the expert oversight and leadership of General Doochen.

Under General Doochen's leadership, the South Dakota Army National Guard has deployed over 3,000 soldiers in support of military operations in the Middle East. General Doochen and I share a commitment to the family members of our military and know how deployments impact the entire family. He ensures that mobilizations, as well as welcome-home ceremonies, are the best possible, bringing the Governor, congressional delegation, and commu-

nity members together to honor our National Guard. General Doochen also makes sure all soldiers and airmen have access to the best chaplains and family readiness professionals. His leadership in these areas has meant a lot to the men and women of our National Guard and their families.

In addition to the contributions General Doochen has made to the State of South Dakota, his wife Gloria has also played a vital role in supporting our service men and women and their families. She has spearheaded efforts to send thousands of care packages to deployed South Dakotans over the past decade and led efforts to recognize and honor the greatest sacrifice of our South Dakota men and women through the Fallen Heroes Banner project. I thank her for her advocacy and work alongside General Doochen.

I commend General Doochen for the work and many years of service he has given the State of South Dakota and our Nation. General Doochen clearly cares deeply about each member of the South Dakota National Guard, and it shows in his every action. His dedicated service to our grateful Nation will not be forgotten.●

TRIBUTE TO MARY JO MAY

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam President, today I wish to publicly commend Mary Jo May of Kyle, SD, on her impressive research and dedication to the preservation of Native American service members' history.

Mary Jo May, a student at Black Hills State University, was a proud participant in the prestigious Washington Internship for Native Students, WINS, program. While in Washington, DC, Mary Jo worked at the Department of Veterans Affairs to preserve the great history of Native American service members through detailed research and analysis. She conducted research at the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Women's Memorial Archives, and many other museums.

Through her research, the VA produced an exhibit detailing the stories and groundbreaking actions of several Native American service women, including the challenges and hardships the women overcame to achieve greatness in their military careers. Mary Jo's exhibit was selected for display at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery and soon will be displayed at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian.

Mary Jo was awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship for her academic achievement, community involvement, and leadership ability. Mary Jo's goal is to bring her exhibit and research to South Dakota and have it be displayed at the VA Black Hills Health Care System in Hot Springs and Sturgis. She hopes to someday share her passion for learning as a teacher.

It is with great honor that I share her impressive accomplishments with my colleagues. Mary Jo's commitment to her history embodies what is great about South Dakota. I am proud to recognize her, and I look forward to seeing what else this remarkable young woman accomplishes.●

TRIBUTE TO SARA ELTON

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam President, today I recognize Sara Elton, director of the Black Hills National Cemetery at Sturgis, SD. Sara has served as director of the Black Hills facility for 3 years and has recently been named the chief of operations for Memorial Service Network III in Denver, CO, for the National Cemetery Administration.

Ms. Elton's Federal service career spans 12 years, and I have been most impressed with her work and leadership at the Black Hills National Cemetery. She has provided oversight for numerous changes at the facility, and she and her staff have provided great service to veterans and their families as well as South Dakota veterans organizations. She has initiated many opportunities to recognize veterans, including the traditional Memorial Day and Four Chaplains Services. She also oversaw the Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service, in which veterans with no surviving family members are honored in a special service.

Sara's greatest efforts have been overseeing the daily tasks of maintaining the grounds and gravesites of the thousands of veterans and family members interred at the Black Hills National Cemetery, as well as counseling family members in times of grief and working to facilitate the burials of veterans when issues arise with discharge and eligibility. She has approached her public service with a high degree of professionalism, dedication, and commitment to our Nation's veterans. I applaud her for her service and wish her well in her new endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO INDIA ADERHOLD

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize India Aderhold, an intern in my Aberdeen, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

India is a native of Bath, SD. Currently, she is taking classes from Thomas Edison State College, where she is pursuing a major in English. She is a very hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to India for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to